

Bionic Greetings

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It's taken years of painstakingly detailed observation, and truckloads of government grant money, but the consensus is finally in: Your new cell phone works best when you take it out of the box. Further, there are a few steps you need to take to get oriented with the phone, find the important things, ignore the unimportant things, get up and running with the Droid Bionic. This chapter covers all this information in a cheerful, friendly manner.

Liberation

Some people enjoy removing their new electronic gizmos from their boxes for the first time. It's a ritual. There's the gentle opening of the box, the careful peeling away of the plastic cling sheets, the eager assembling of various parts, and, finally, the delight of holding the thing in your hand. But it all starts with liberating the device from its box.



Looking in the box

You find several items inside the Droid Bionic box, most of which are potentially useful. Even if you've already opened the box and strewn its contents across the table, take a few moments to locate and identify each of the following goodies:

- ✓ The Droid Bionic phone
- ✓ Papers, instructions, warranty, and perhaps the booklet titled *Getting Started* or even *Inicio*
- ✓ The phone's battery, which might already be installed inside the phone
- ✓ The phone's back (battery) cover, which also might already be on the phone
- ✓ The charger/data cable, which is basically a USB cable
- ✓ The charger head, which is a wall adapter for the charger/data cable
- ✓ The 4G LTE SIM card holder



The Droid Bionic may ship with a clingy, static, plastic cover over its screen. Other plastic, clingy things might be found on the back of the phone's screen: first, a warning sticker over the rear microphone and then a tiny, plastic dot over the Motorola logo. The plastic thingies tell you where various features are located or how to install the battery. You can remove all the plastic, clingy sheets at this time.

In addition to the items described in the preceding list, you might have been given a bonus package of goodies from whoever sold you the phone. If the outfit is classy, you have a handy little tote bag with perhaps the Verizon logo on it. Inside the bag, you might find these items:

- ✓ A smart-looking, leatherette belt-clip phone holster
- ✓ A micro-USB car charger
- ✓ A car windshield mount
- ✓ Headphones
- ✓ Screen protectors
- ✓ A phone case
- ✓ A desktop dock or multimedia station
- ✓ Webtop application accessories (HD Station and Lapdock, for example)
- ✓ Even more random pieces of paper

The most important doodad is the phone itself, which might require some assembly before you can use it; refer to the next section for assembly directions.

You can safely set aside all this stuff until you put together the phone. I recommend keeping the instructions and other information as long as you own the phone: The phone's box makes an excellent storage place for that stuff — as well as anything else you don't plan to use right away.

If anything is missing or appears to be damaged, contact the folks who sold you the phone.

- ✓ The SIM card may have come separately and may not be found in the box.
- ✓ When your phone has been preconfigured, either before you ordered it or at the Phone Store, they may have tossed the SIM card holder into the box. It's a piece of plastic the size of a credit card with a hole in it where the actual SIM card was.
- ✓ Don't keep the SIM card holder.
- ✓ I confess that the Droid Bionic's box is one of the more handsome cell phone boxes I've seen. Classy.

Installing the phone's SIM card and battery

The Droid Bionic comes disassembled inside the box. If the nice people who sold you the phone haven't already installed the SIM card and battery, that chore falls to you.

Start by locating the SIM card. It comes in a holder the size of a credit card. You need to pop the SIM card out of the card holder. If you assembled plastic model kits as a kid, you'll be a pro at popping the SIM card out of its holder.

Insert the SIM card in the top of the phone, right next to the rear camera, as illustrated in Figure 1-1. An outline on the phone shows you how to orient the SIM card; the shiny side faces down.

The SIM card slot is not flush with the bottom of the battery compartment. It may take a few tries before you find the slot.

After inserting the SIM card, your next step is to install the battery. (The battery blocks the SIM card, so the SIM card must be installed first.)

Remove the battery from its plastic bag. Orient the battery as illustrated in Figure 1-1.

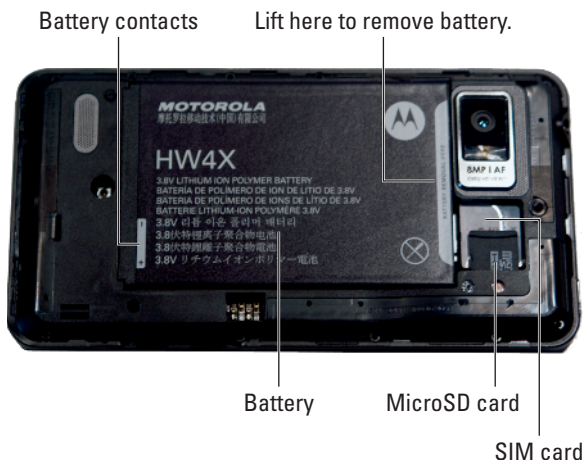


Figure 1-1: The guts of the Droid Bionic.



Insert the contacts edge of the battery first. Then lower the top part of the battery like you're closing the lid on a tiny box. Properly inserted, the battery is flush with the back of the phone.

If the MicroSD card wasn't installed, you can install it now. See the later section "Looking at the phone's guts" for more information on installing the MicroSD card.



SIM card nonsense

The Droid Bionic features a SIM card, which sets the phone's identity. The SIM, which stands for Subscriber Identity Module, contains a special serial number, used by your cellular provider, to help identify your phone and keep track of the calls you make. Additionally, the SIM can be used to store information, such as electronic messages and names and addresses, though you probably won't use this feature on your Droid Bionic.

A typical way to use a SIM is to replace a broken phone with a new one: You plug the SIM from the old phone into the new phone, and instantly the phone is recognized as your own. Of course, the two phones need to use similar cellular networks for the transplant operation to be successful.

After the SIM card and battery are installed, attach the back cover: Position the back cover over the phone's rear; then press the back cover to shut it. Pinch all edges to ensure that the cover is snugly attached.

After the battery is installed, your next step is to charge it. Continue reading in the next section.

- ✓ The SIM card is required in order to identify your phone with the 4G LTE network. See the nearby sidebar "SIM card nonsense."
- ✓ You rarely need to remove the SIM card.

Charging the battery

The Droid Bionic's battery may have enough oomph in it to run setup at the Phone Store. If so, count yourself lucky. Otherwise, you need to charge the phone's battery. After inserting the battery into your new phone, you charge it. Don't worry about flying a kite and waiting for a lightning storm. Instead, follow these steps:

- 1. Connect the charger head (the plug thing) to the USB cable that comes with the phone.**
They connect in only one way.
- 2. Plug the charger head and cable into a wall socket.**
- 3. Plug the phone into the USB cable.**

The charger cord plugs into the micro-USB connector, found at the phone's left side. The connector plugs in only one way.

As the phone charges, the notification light on the phone's front side may glow. When the light is orange-yellow, the phone is charging. When the light is green, the phone is fully charged.

The phone may turn on when you plug it in for a charge. That's okay, but read Chapter 2 to find out what to do the first time the Droid Bionic turns on. You also may need to phone your cell provider for additional setup instructions before you turn on the phone.

- ✓ Wait until the notification light turns green before unplugging the phone from its power cable, especially the first time you charge the phone.
- ✓ The notification light uses three colors: amber for charging, green for fully charged, and scary red for warning that the battery is low.



- ✓ You can use the phone while it's charging.
- ✓ You can charge the Droid Bionic in your car, using what was once called a cigarette lighter. Simply ensure that your car cell phone charger features a micro-USB connector and that it's designed for use with the Droid Bionic.
- ✓ The phone also charges itself when it's plugged into a computer by way of a USB cable. The computer must be on for charging to work.
- ✓ The Droid Bionic charges more quickly when it's plugged into the wall as opposed to a computer's USB port or a car adapter.
- ✓ A micro-USB connector has a flat, trapezoid shape, which makes it different from the mini-USB connector, which is squat and slightly larger and used primarily on evil cell phones.

Examination and Orientation

You don't have a second chance at a first impression, and the Droid Bionic's first impression can be intimidating. That's because it probably looks unlike any other phone you've ever owned or used. So take a few seconds to look around your new gizmo, using the helpful, non-intimidating advice found in this section.

Finding things on the phone

Rather than call everything on the Droid Bionic a *thingamabob*, consider poring over Figures 1-2 and 1-3. Figure 1-2 illustrates the names of all the useful things you find on the front of your new phone; Figure 1-3 does the same for the phone's rump.

The terms referenced in Figures 1-2 and 1-3 are the same as the terms used elsewhere in this book and in whatever scant Droid Bionic documentation that exists.

- ✓ The phone's Power Lock button, which turns the phone off or on, is found atop the phone, as shown in Figures 1-2 and 1-3.
- ✓ The main part of the phone is the *touchscreen* display. You use the touchscreen with one or more of your fingers to control the phone, which is where it gets the name *touchscreen*.

- ✓ The *soft buttons* appear below the touchscreen, as shown earlier, in Figure 1-2. They have no function unless the phone is turned on.
- ✓ Yes, the main microphone is on the bottom of the phone. Even so, it picks up your voice loud and clear. There's no need to hold the phone at an angle for the microphone to work.
- ✓ The phone's volume is adjusted by using the Volume button on the phone's left side (refer to Figure 1-2).
- ✓ The Volume button can also be used as a Zoom function when using the Droid Bionic as a camera. See Chapter 14 for more information.

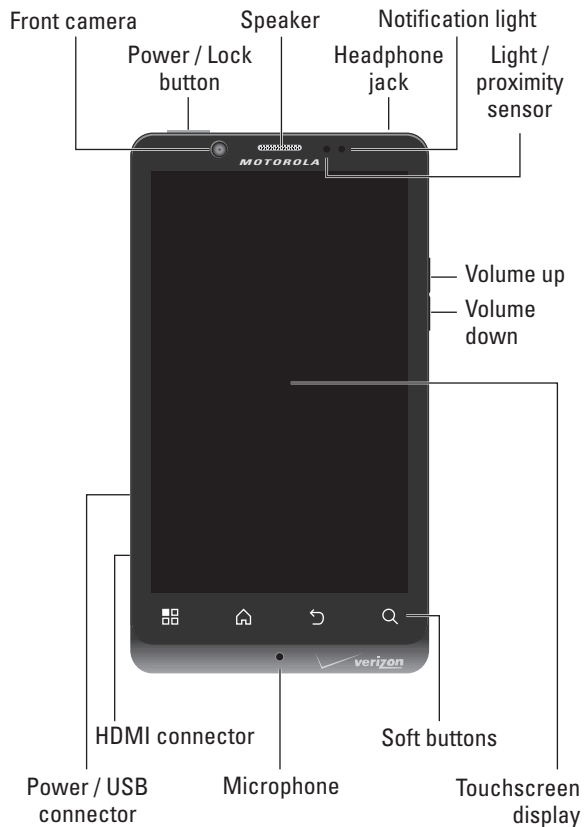


Figure 1-2: Your phone's face.

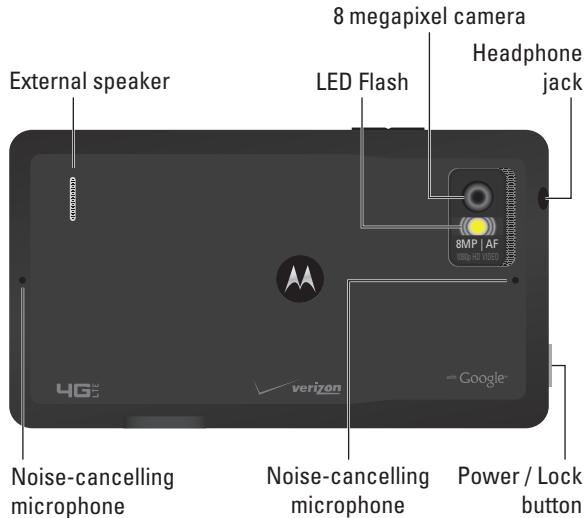


Figure 1-3: Your phone's rump.

Looking at the phone's guts

It rarely happens, but occasionally you may need to access your phone's innards. Unlike some other cell phones, the Droid Bionic is designed to have easily replaceable items that you can get to without having to sneak around behind the manufacturer's back, pry open the phone, and alert the warranty police.

Specifically, you might need to open your phone for two reasons:

- ✓ To install or replace the battery
- ✓ To access the MicroSD memory card

When you need to access one of these items, you can obey these steps:

- 1. Turn off your phone.**

See the section "Turning off the Droid Bionic" in Chapter 2 for more information.

- 2. Flip the phone over.**

- 3. Stick your thumbnail into the slot found on the back of the phone, just behind the Power / Lock button.**

4. Pry off the back cover.

The prying takes some effort. Use your thumbnail to free the cover from the back of the phone, working around the top and then down the sides.

5. Set aside the back cover.

Use Figure 1-1 to identify the phone's battery and the MicroSD memory card.

6. Remove the MicroSD card by sliding it in the direction of the rear camera.

Likewise, you insert the card by sliding it away from the rear camera. The MicroSD card clicks when it's fully inserted.

When you're done rummaging around inside your phone, close things up.

7. Snap the back cover back onto the phone; line it up and then press the back cover into position, working all the way around the phone to ensure that the cover is fully seated.

The cover fits only one way.

You can turn on the phone again after the back cover is locked into place. See Chapter 2 for information on turning on your phone.



- ✓ It's possible to remove the MicroSD card without turning off your Droid Bionic, though I don't recommend that you do so. This operation involves unmounting the MicroSD card, which happens automatically when you turn the phone off. That's why I recommend just turning the phone off to begin with.
- ✓ If you're upgrading to the Droid Bionic from another Android phone, simply remove the MicroSD card from that phone and install it on the Droid Bionic. By doing so, you instantly transfer your pictures, music, and videos from the old phone to the new one.

Using earphones

Your Droid Bionic most likely didn't come with earphones. That's not a reason to give up on the concept. In fact, the nice people who sold you the Droid Bionic might have tossed in a set of earbud-style earphones for you to use. If not, well then, they weren't that nice, were they?

You're probably familiar with earbud-style earphones: The buds are set into your ears. The sharp, pointy end of the earphones, which you don't want to stick into your ear, plugs into the top of the phone.

Between the earbuds and the sharp, pointy thing is often found a doodle on which a button sits. The button can be used to mute the phone or to start or stop the playback of music when the Droid Bionic is in its music-playing mode.

You can also use the Doodle button to answer the phone when it rings.

A teensy hole that's usually on the back side of the doodle serves as the phone's microphone. You can use the earphones as a hands-free headset with the Droid Bionic. Because I'm half Italian, I love this option.

- ✓ You can purchase any standard cell phone headset for use with the Droid Bionic. Ensure that the headset features a microphone; you need to talk and listen on a phone.

- ✓ Some headsets feature extra Doodle buttons. These headsets work fine with the Droid Bionic, though the extra buttons may not do anything specifically.

- ✓ The earbuds are labeled R for right and L for left.

- ✓ You don't use the earphone's doodle to set the phone's volume, either in a call or while you're listening to music. Instead, the volume is set by using the volume-control buttons, found on the side of the phone, as illustrated in Figure 1-3.

- ✓ See Chapter 16 for more information on using your Droid Bionic as a portable music player.



- ✓ Be sure to fully insert the earphone connector into the phone. The person you're talking with can't hear you well when the earphones are plugged in only part of the way.

- ✓ You can also use a Bluetooth headset with your phone, to listen to a call or some music. See Chapter 19 for more information on Bluetooth attachments for the Droid Bionic.



- ✓ Fold the earphones when you don't need them, as opposed to wrapping them in a loop: Put the earbuds and connector in one hand and then pull the wire straight out with the other hand. Fold the wire in half, and then in half again. You can then put the earphones in your pocket or on a tabletop. By folding the wires, you avoid creating one of those Christmas-tree-light wire balls that would otherwise happen.

Adding accessories

Beyond earphones, you should consider obtaining some other items to enhance your mobile communications experience. These items can be obtained at the Phone Store or online at www.verizonwireless.com.

Docking Stations

A *docking station* is a heavy base into which you can set your phone. There are several models:

Standard Dock: The basic model, called the *Standard Dock*, is merely a stand in which you can set the Droid Bionic.

Battery Dock: The *Battery Dock* lets you charge the Droid Bionic — its internal battery *and* its spare battery.

Multimedia Dock: The *Multimedia Dock* features HDMI output, which makes it easier to connect your Bionic to an HDMI TV or monitor.

HD Station: The *HD Station* is a webtop dock, which allows you to access certain advanced phone features, including connecting the Droid Bionic to USB devices. The HD Station also features a multimedia Remove control.

The Vehicle Navigation Mount

The *Vehicle Navigation Mount* is a fancy term for the Droid Bionic's car mount. The mount provides a cradle for the phone while you're in your car. A suction cup attaches the cradle to the windshield or any other flat surface, which keeps the phone handy and visible while you perilously navigate the roads in your auto.

You'll probably want to buy the car charger adapter in addition to the Vehicle Navigation Mount, especially if you plan to use the Droid Bionic as your map/navigator on the road. See Chapter 13 for details.

Also see Chapter 3 for information on the Car Home screen, which appears whenever the Droid Bionic is nestled inside the vehicle navigation dock.

Motorola Lapdock

The Droid Bionic features a custom dock that looks like a thin laptop — including both a full-size keyboard and an LCD monitor — called the *Motorola Lapdock*. You connect the phone to the back of the Lapdock and you're prompted to run special webtop applications. This way, your Droid Bionic transforms from a state-of-the-art 4G LTE smartphone into a quasicomputer.

An HDMI cable

Your Droid Bionic can throw its sound and image onto a computer monitor or TV screen, but only if you obtain an HDMI cable. The cable plugs into the phone's HDMI hole (refer to Figure 1-2) and then into the monitor or TV.

After choosing the proper HDMI input on the monitor or TV, you see the same image from the Droid Bionic touchscreen displayed on the monitor or TV.

- ✓ See Chapter 3 for information on the webtop applications.
- ✓ Chapter 20 offers more information on making the HDMI connection with your Droid Bionic.

A Home for Your Phone

Back before cell phones were popular, no one bothered to find a spot for the phone. It was bolted to the wall or it could wander only as far as the cord would allow. Those days offered no phone freedom, no talking and pacing, no wandering around with the phone in your pocket. Well, unless you had really big pockets.

Despite the Droid Bionic's portable nature, you'll probably want to find it a permanent spot. You can make a place for it when you carry it around, or have a spot for the phone when it's not on your belt or tumbling around in your purse. It may not be as fancy as a phone credenza or a vault in the wall, but it's something.

Toting your Droid Bionic

The compact design of the Droid Bionic is perfect for a pocket or even the teensiest of party purses. It's well designed so that you can carry your phone in your pocket or handbag without fearing that something will accidentally turn it on, dial Botswana, and run up a heck of a cell phone bill.

Because the Droid Bionic features a proximity sensor, you can even keep the phone in your pocket while you're on a call. The proximity sensor disables the touchscreen, which ensures that nothing accidentally gets touched when you don't want it to be touched.

- ✓ Though it's okay to place the phone somewhere when you're making a call, be careful not to touch the phone's Power Lock button (refer to Figure 1-2). Doing so may temporarily enable the touchscreen, which can hang up a call, mute the phone, or do any of a number of undesirable things.
- ✓ You can always store the Droid Bionic in one of a variety of handsome carrying case accessories, some of which come in fine Naugahyde or leatherette.



- ✔ Don't forget that the phone is in your pocket, especially in your coat or jacket. You might accidentally sit on the phone, or it can fly out when you take off your coat. The worst fate for the Droid Bionic, or any cell phone, is to take a trip through the wash. I'm sure the phone has nightmares about it.

Storing the phone

I recommend that you find a place for your phone when you're not taking it with you. Make the spot consistent: on top of your desk or workstation, in the kitchen, on the nightstand — you get the idea. Phones are as prone to being misplaced as are your car keys and glasses. Consistency is the key to finding your phone.

Then again, your phone rings, so when you lose it, you can always have someone else call your cell phone to help you locate it.

- ✔ Any of the various docking stations makes a handsome, permanent location for your Droid Bionic.
- ✔ I keep my Droid Bionic on my desk, next to my computer. Conveniently, I have the charger plugged into the computer so that I keep the phone plugged in, connected, and charging when I'm not using it.
- ✔ Phones on coffee tables get buried under magazines and are often squished when rude people put their feet on the furniture.
- ✔ Avoid putting the Droid Bionic in direct sunlight; heat is a bad thing for any electronic gizmo.
- ✔ Do not put your phone in the laundry (see the preceding section). See Chapter 23 for information on properly cleaning the phone.

